Boycott drive still stands, organizers say

GT 1/16/93

By **Dave Curtin**
Gazette Telegraph

DENVER — The boycott movement against Colorado will continue despite a judge's ruling that keeps Amendment 2 from becoming law for now.

"Amendment 2 is still on the books in Colorado and is still a threat," said Terry Schleder, spokeswoman for Denver-based Boycott Colorado, which is asking people across the nation to do business elsewhere.

The group hopes economic pressure will undermine support for the amendment, which prohibits gay-protection laws in Colorado. It was put hold Friday pending the outcome of a constitutional challenge to the law.

"We're very pleased," Schleder said, "but an injunction (stopping the law) is just a Band-Aid."

Several cities, outraged over voter approval of the amendment, have cut economic ties with Colorado and some major conventions have been canceled, costing millions of dollars in lost business. Several Hollywood celebrities have endorsed the boycott, saying they will not perform in Colorado.

In Colorado Springs, a gay rights group also expressed support for keeping the pressure on.

The boycott is "an important way to galvanize attention and help keep the issue alive," said Bruce Loeffler, spokesman for Ground Zero.

"We see it as a valuable tool of education. It's also an appropriate way for people outside of Colorado to stand up and be counted and show how they feel."

John Miller, a professor at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and a plaintiff in the lawsuit seeking to overturn Amendment 2, thinks continuing the boycott is appropriate.

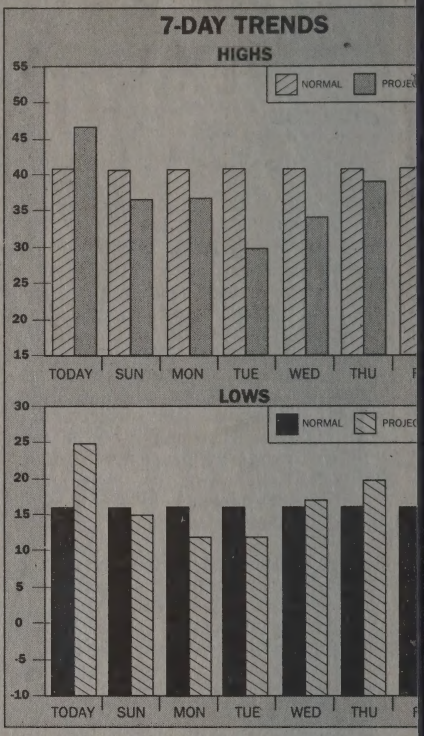
"I would think that to exert pressure on the thinking of Coloradans, that the boycott has a purpose."

That doesn't surprise Joseph Nee of Colorado Springs, who organized a group called BACK OFF — Boycotters of Colorado Keep Out of Our Affairs.

"What they do is irrelevant to us. We're still doing what we set out to do and that's contact cities and explain our case to them," Nee said.

Staff writers Jeff Thomas and Rich Laden also contributed to this report.

37, low 12.
Tuesday: Cold; snow possible. High 30, low 12.
Wednesday: Still cold, chance flurries or light sn
34, low 17.



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TODAY'S RECORDS

HIGH ..... 72° (1974) **LOW** .....-3

Road conditions: Call State Patrol 635-7623

COLORADO FORECAST

CENTRAL MOUNTAINS: Clouds limiting sunlight today. Highs 26-35. Snow showers tonight. Lows 4-22. Sunday, rain/snow showers. Highs 20-35.
FRONT RANGE: Sunshine and clouds today; mild. Highs 47-51. Cloudy tonight. Lows 20-25. Cloudy Sunday with a snow shower. Highs 34-38.
WESTERN SLOPE: Today, mostly cloudy. Highs 34-40. Snow showers tonight. Lows 20-26. Sunday, rain and snow showers. Highs 34-42.
EASTERN PLAINS: Mixed clouds and sun today; mild. Highs 49-53. Cloudy tonight. Lows 21-25. Plenty of clouds Sunday; colder. Highs 35-39.

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